

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-41 (Cancelled)

42. (Currently Amended): A cleansing method, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a cleansing processing agent comprising which comprises:

(1) a hydrolyzed polymer having an acrylonitrile unit;

(2) a unit selected from the group consisting of styrene, conjugated diene, and a combination thereof;

(3) hydrophilic groups being introduced into said acrylonitrile unit by adding an acid or an alkali thereto; and

(4) ion groups being introduced into said acrylonitrile unit selected from the group consisting of styrene, conjugated diene, and a combination thereof, said polymer comprising 20 to 95 mol% of said acrylonitrile unit and selected from the group consisting of styrene, conjugated diene and a combination thereof, and said polymer and said acrylonitrile unit present in pieces not larger than 3.5 mesh;

(b) contacting said agent with a material to be cleaned, the material to be cleaned containing at least one of a heavy metal, ammonia, and amine compound; and

(c) absorbing the at least one of a heavy metal, ammonia, and an amine compound from the material to be cleaned.

43. (Currently Amended) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the material to be cleaned is effluent water or an exhaust gas that is passed through a column charged with the hydrolyzed polymer ~~with said agent~~.

44. (Currently Amended) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the hydrolyzed polymer ~~said agent~~ is dispersed into effluent water.

45. (Previously presented) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the material to be cleaned is a solid material.

46. (Previously presented) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the hydrolyzed polymer ~~said agent~~ is sprayed onto the material to be cleaned.

47. (Previously presented) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the material to be cleaned is soil in a landfill.

48. (Previously presented) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the material to be cleaned is odor-emitting material.

49. (Previously presented) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the polymer comprises 5 to 80 mol % of an acrylonitrile unit.

50. (Previously presented) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the polymer is at least one selected from the group consisting of an acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene resin (ABS), a styrene-acrylonitrile resin (SAN), and an acrylonitrile-butadiene rubber (ABR).

51. (Previously presented) The cleansing method of claim 42, wherein the acid is sulfuric acid.

52-53 (Cancelled)

54. (Currently Amended): A cleansing method, comprising the steps of:
contacting a hydrolyzed polymer with a material to be cleaned, the material to be cleaned containing at least one of a heavy metal, ammonia, and an amine compound; and
absorbing the at least one of a heavy metal, ammonia, and an amine compound from the material to be cleaned,

wherein the hydrolyzed polymer is prepared by a process comprising which comprises
the steps of:

- (I) polymerizing monomers to form a polymer, the monomers comprising
 - (i) a monomer containing as an acrylonitrile group unit;
 - (ii) a styrene; and
 - (iii) a monomer containing a conjugated diene, and
- (II) processing said polymer into small pieces no larger than 3.5 mesh
- (III) hydrolyzing the polymer.